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CITY PAGE 5

FRIEND IN SEED

1,523 indigenous seed varieties that are on brink of extinction will be preserved in B'luru

PAGE 2

RING OF FIRE

Why fires burning all around us in our neighbouring countries will turn the heat up in India

PAGE 13

Police Commissioner reveals in about 50% of cybercrime cases, victims report crime way too late, giving fraudsters good window to slip away; expert says fear of police scrutiny also plays part in delay

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

Every 5-10 minutes of golden hour crucial

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as cyber fraud continues to rise in the city, police say that delayed reporting by victims is making investigations harder and drastically reducing the chances of recovering lost money. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh told Bangalore Mirror that nearly 50% of victims approach the police late, often days or even weeks after the crime, giving fraudsters enough time to wipe out digital footprints and transfer stolen funds.

Recently, a complaint was registered in Whitefield CEN police station, in which a city resident reported the loss of a staggering ₹5.16 lakh from his bank account over the course of nearly 20 months, without his knowledge.

According to the online complaint the deductions occurred step by step between January 7, 2024, and August 27, 2025. The complainant discovered the fraudulent withdrawals only after updating his passbook, when he noticed repeated unauthorised debits totaling

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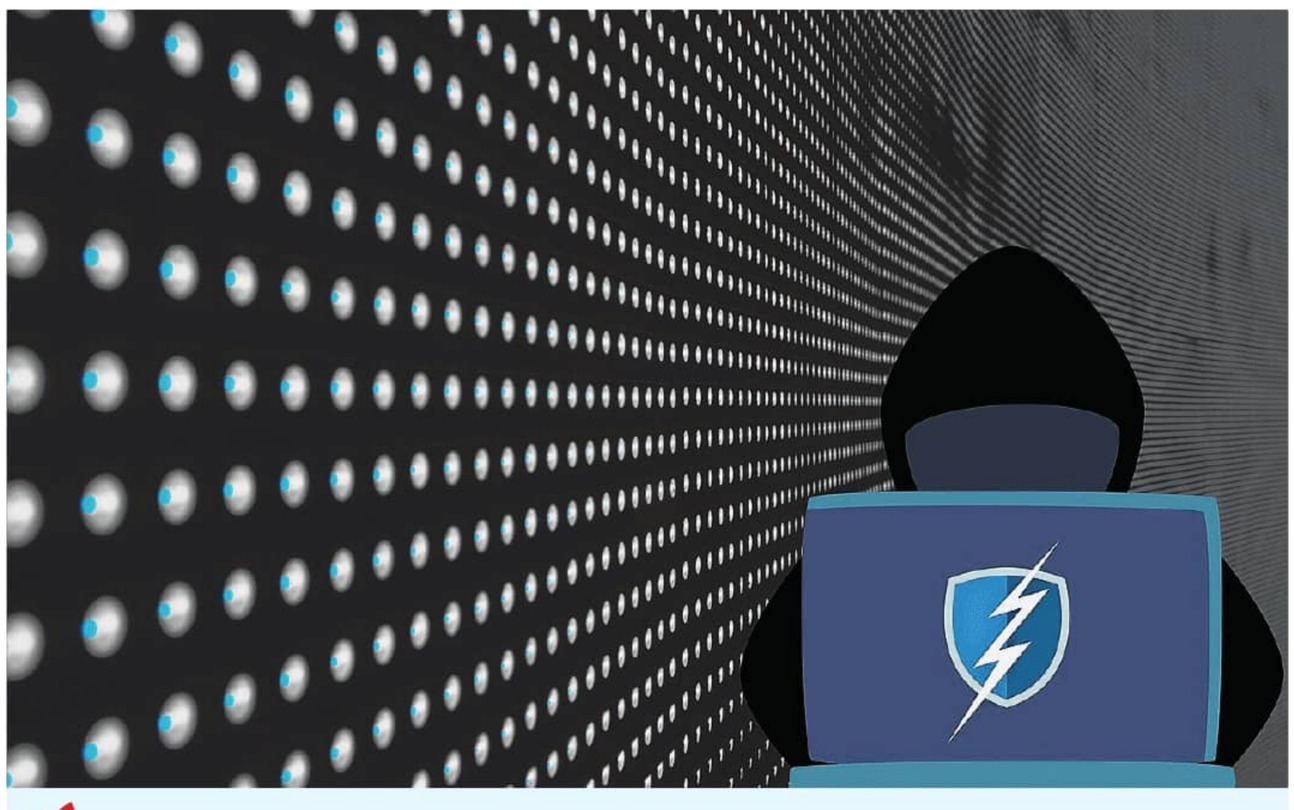

"Nowadays, people turn to Google to search for cybercrime experts or approach third-party advisors in case of a crisis. Those without awareness get even more confused; they ask around in panic, often receiving unclear guidance —Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor

What are you eating?

Recent report reveals dietary intake of protein has gone down in K'taka, while intake of fat has gone up in rural areas

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Karnataka's food habits appear to have deteriorated over the last one year. A recent report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shows that the dietary intake of protein in Karnataka has gone down, while the intake of fat in rural areas of the state has gone up.

The 'Nutritional Intake in India report 2023-24' shows that in 2023-24, protein intake per day per capita in rural areas in the state was 61.4 grams, and in urban areas it was estimated to be 64.6 grams. However, in 2022-23, rural Karnataka consumed 63.8 grams of protein per day per capita, and in urban areas, the consumption was 66.6 grams.

The majority of this protein (38% in rural and 33% in urban areas) came from cereals. This apart, people also used egg, fish and meat, milk and milk products, and pulses as sources of protein. However, an increasing trend in average protein intake has been observed in rural and urban Karnataka since 2009-10.

As per the Ministry, proteins are among the most important nutrients required by the body and should be available in an adequate amount in the diet. Some foods contain high amounts of protein and can be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Story haven

Bhartiya Mall invites you to a festival for readers of all ages. Meet authors, explore over 10,000 books across genres, and enjoy special zones including Manga and children's activities. **Where: Bhartiya Mall, Thanisandra Main Road; When: Sept 11 to 28, 5 pm onwards**

02 Tech thrills

Thrillscape brings Bangalore's first immersive VR and AR adventure zone. Enjoy high-speed space rides, zombie battles, holograms, AR challenges, and more. Single experiences ₹200+GST, all-access ₹1000+GST. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: August 19 till November 9, 11 am to 10 pm**

03 Poetic evenings

Experience India's longest-running poetry event, featured in the Limca Book of Records. Join poet Aparna Agarwal for a journey through over 100 heartfelt and evocative poems, celebrating the beauty in everyday moments. A getaway for lovers of spoken word, literature, and soulful performances. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: September 16, 7:30 pm to 9 pm**

04 Model quest

India's premier modelling competition returns to Bengaluru. Mentored by Prasad Bidapa, contestants gain professional grooming and industry insights across runway, print, and on-screen projects. Showcase your talent, learn from experts, and compete for the crown at the grand finale. Register online to participate. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: September 28, 10 am onwards**

05 Artistic traditions

Explore handcrafted dolls and miniatures by rural artisans from across India. Themes range from traditional Garba dances, daily life scenes, Ramayana & Mahabharata episodes, to Karnataka's iconic Hampi Ratha and Mysuru Dasara celebrations. **Where: Studio Tamaala, J P Nagar; When: September 13 to 28, 10 am to 7 pm**

State enforces uniform cinema pricing

The Karnataka state government has issued a notification capping movie ticket prices at ₹200 (excluding taxes) across all languages and in most theatres, including multiplexes, with immediate effect. However, this rule excludes premium multiplex screens with 75 or fewer seats. This move follows a draft policy released on July 15 inviting public objections and suggestions, all of which were thoroughly reviewed before the rule was finalised.

The uniform pricing applies to all films screened in theatres across the state, aiming to make cinema more affordable to the general public. While this decision benefits moviegoers, industry experts believe it may impact the box office revenues of big-budget films, which previously charged ₹500-₹1000 per ticket. With major Kannada films like Kantara 1 (directed by and starring Rishab Shetty), The Devil (starring Darshan), and Mark (featuring Sudeep) set to release soon, the revenue potential of such high-budget productions may now face constraints due to the enforced ticket price ceiling. **— BMB**

Artistic Faith

An artist giving final touch to Goddess Durga idol for Navaratri festival.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

1,500 indigenous grains secured for tomorrow's farmers

Seed bank becomes repository for region's vanishing agricultural legacy

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As the city moves towards the future, Bengaluru may also become a guardian of its agricultural past by conserving disappearing native seeds.

Bengaluru is poised to become a hub not only for technology but also for seed conservation. In a rare and significant move, the Agriculture Department has begun the process of preserving 1,523 indigenous seed varieties facing extinction. These seeds, collected from 29 districts including Tumakuru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, and Kolar, are being sent to the Seed Bank at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.

An official said, "The initiative focuses on native varieties of crops such as toor dal, ragi, foxtail millet, pearl millet, and multiple strains of paddy and millets, many of which are nutrient-rich, naturally resistant to pests and diseases, and well-suited to local climatic conditions. Agricultural scientists will now study these seeds to understand their genetic traits, resilience, and productivity, with the aim of developing further and reintroducing them to the next generation of farmers."

Notably, Kalaburagi farmers have preserved unique seeds such as Kapuu Godhi (black wheat), Haladi Hesaru (yellow green gram), and Gundu Jola (round sorghum), known for their drought-tolerant and high fibre content. The goal is to integrate these resilient varieties

The state's rare seed conservation effort aims to integrate traditional crops

back into mainstream agriculture, ensuring food security and sustainability for future generations.

Siddapp D, an activist, said, "This conservation effort is not just about safeguarding biodiversity—it's about reviving traditional agricultural wisdom that has sustained generations. Unlike hybrid seeds that often require high input costs and chemical inputs, these native varieties thrive with minimal resources, adapt seamlessly to regional soil and weather patterns, and offer superior nutritional benefits. Experts believe that promoting these native crops can empower small farmers, reduce dependence on commercial seed companies, and strengthen climate-resilient farming."

Egg burden cracks teachers' patience

Staff warn that extra costs and inspections are distracting from teaching

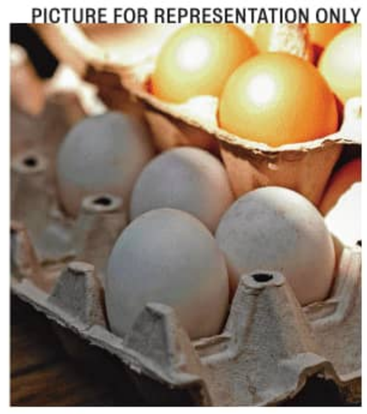
Government school teachers are expressing frustration at being forced to bear additional expenses from their own pockets for boiling eggs served as part of the mid-day meal scheme.

As per new government instructions, teachers must calculate 30 paise per egg and 20 paise for cooking gas from the allocated funds. However, with wholesale egg prices on the rise and the sanctioned amount remaining stagnant, teachers are compelled to pay the difference out of their own pockets.

A school teacher said, "Even if eggs are sourced at a minimum of ₹6.50 each, and gas costs are added, each egg ends up costing us around 50 paise extra. For a school with 200 children, this works out to ₹100 in daily additional expenditure. Excluding Sundays, this amounts to around ₹4,200 per month, creating a significant burden."

In towns where egg prices are above ₹6.50, the monthly gap for a school with 200 students can rise between ₹6,000 to ₹10,000, increasing the financial strain on schools. "Therefore, we urge the government to revise the egg allowance until market prices fall," said Marutesh RA President, Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



Boiled eggs meant for nutrition are leaving teachers with a financial headache

'We're not here to weigh eggs'

In many areas of the State, staff shortage is already affecting teaching. On top of this, teachers are now burdened with egg-related tasks — including buying, weighing, checking quality, and ensuring each egg weighs at least 50 grams, as mandated by the government.

Mid-day meal inspectors, PM Poshan officials, and audit teams are now also closely scrutinizing the egg weight in each school. In some cases, inspectors have threatened to issue notices if the eggs don't meet the 50-gram requirement, leaving teachers anxious and overwhelmed. "Last week, officials inspected eggs and warned they might issue notices. This is unfair to teachers,"added GR Bhat, Mid-Day Meal Federation Leader Some teachers argue that 30 paise allocated for boiling is insufficient, and if this allowance is withdrawn, those responsible for boiling the eggs will also be affected. They are demanding an immediate revision in funding or a solution that does not compromise the nutritional programme or overburden teachers. **— BMB**

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SPOTLIGHT

Fight Pneumococcal infection

Dr Ankur Rajvanshi,
Lead Consultant Neonatologist & Pediatrician
Cloudnine Hospital, Whitefield, Bangalore

In India, Pneumococcal disease causes an estimated 1.6 million cases of severe disease each year, with pneumonia alone responsible for about 1,20,000 child deaths annually. Children who are malnourished or exposed to indoor air pollution are at even higher risk.

The best way to prevent pneumococcal disease is through vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, good nutrition, and keeping homes smoke-free. Hand-washing and clean water also help protect children from infection.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is highly effective and recommended by WHO, UNICEF, and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics for all children. In India, PCV10, PCV13, and PCV14 are available, protecting against multiple strains of the bacteria. These vaccines are now part of India's national immunisation programme and are accessible to millions of children.

By ensuring timely vaccination, parents can save their children from life-threatening illnesses. Let's work together—families, health workers, and communities—to protect every child from pneumococcal disease. Talk to your doctor and make sure your child is vaccinated!

Disclaimer: For information purpose only

Reported cases just tip of iceberg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

₹5,16,687 from his account. Police offficals have registered a case invoking provisions of the Information Technology Act (Sections 66(C) and 66(D)) and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (318(4), 319(2)). According to the Police Commissioner, cybercriminals exploit advanced technology and sophisticated methods to target unsuspecting citizens. However, timely intervention could significantly improve the odds of tracing the culprits and recovering the defrauded amount. "We don't know why victims report the complaints late. It could be because most of them are not aware but in financial crimes, time is of essence. Every hour counts. Unfortunately, half of the cases are reported late, which weakens our ability to act swiftly. Every first 5 to 10 minutes of golden hour is important, fraudsters transact the amount to various accounts within minutes. If the incident is reported then we can freeze the bank account, money can be recovered," he said.

Untold losses

The actual losses could be significantly higher, as a large number of cybercrimes in the country continue to go unreported. Victims often approach authorities only after considerable delay, and the response time from banks or other intermediaries further slows down the process. Fraudsters typically transfer the stolen amount within minutes, making early detection critical. "When victims wait before filing a complaint out of fear, embarrassment, or lack of awareness, they inadvertently help the fraudsters escape," a senior police official added.

Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor, points out that a major hurdle lies in the public perception of how police handle complaints. "Most people believe that if they go to a police station, they won't be treated properly. Instead of support, they often feel like they're being interrogated as culprits. The tone of officials is rarely welcoming, and victims are usually sent from one desk to another, told to visit the cyber cell or redirected elsewhere. Naturally, this creates fear and hesitation in approaching the police." Thennarasu said that as many assume the process will be lengthy, complicated, and bureaucratic, they try to avoid it altogether. "Nowadays, instead of facing these challenges, people turn to Google for cybercrime experts or approach third-party advisors. Those without awareness get even more confused, they ask around in panic, often receiving unclear guidance, which pushes them into anxiety or even depression. Ultimately, with no other choice, they end up at the police station."

There are several reasons why victims delay reporting cybercrimes. Embarrassment plays a major role, as many feel ashamed about being deceived, particularly in scams linked to romance, jobs, or investments, which discourages them from seeking timely help. Lack of awareness also contributes, with many people unaware of the national cybercrime portal or the helpline number 1930, leading to confusion and delays, the cyber expert added. The Cyber Crime Police Station and the city's dedicated helpline 1930 have been set up to ensure quick access for victims. Police urged citizens to immediately call the helpline or log on to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in) in case of suspicious activity.

School bus mishap triggers action on roads and drains

Delayed road-widening works fast-tracked, drains freed of silt and footpaths cleared following school bus incident in east zone

Officials inspecting road and drain conditions following the school bus incident

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Following the shocking incident of a private school bus wheel sinking into an open roadside drain near Panathur-Balagere, civic authorities in East Bengaluru have sprung into action — inspecting the area, launching road-widening works, and clearing encroachments on high-density corridors.

Bengaluru East Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh personally visited the Panathur-Balagere Road today and conducted a detailed inspection of both the road and nearby stormwater drains, which are suspected to be major contributing factors to the mishap.

The incident, in which a school bus's wheel became stuck in a roadside storm-water drain, raised alarms about the deteriorating road conditions. Commissioner Ramesh stated that the road is already in the process of being widened to 18 metres, but delays in land acquisition have hampered progress. He assured that acquisition would be expedited using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) for landowners and instructed officials and contractors to give top priority to completing the work. BBMP officials also began removing compound walls obstructing the road expansion in the exact spot where the bus incident occurred, indicating that the event served as a wake-up call for the civic body.

A wheel sinking incident involving a private school vehicle prompted fast-track action. Officials began demolishing obstructing walls, reclaiming a civic site, and removing unauthorised hoardings and cables

Drain clearance

During the inspection, a major stormwater drain running alongside the Balagere Road was found to be heavily encroached upon, impeding the flow of water and causing waterlogging during rains. Commissioner Ramesh directed that encroachments be cleared urgently to allow water to flow freely into Varthur Lake, thus reducing flooding risks. In nearby areas such as Devasandra and Pai Layout (under KR Puram limits), silt removal using JCB machines has begun to restore water flow in stormwater drains.

Corridor clean-up

Acting on the commissioner's directives, BBMP teams have intensified operations across high-density corridors under East Zone. This includes clearing footpath encroachments, removing unauthorised hoardings and advertisement boards, and dismantling illegal cables. These actions are being supervised by executive engineers from relevant departments to ensure swift execution. In the A.E.C.S. Layout of Mahadevapura, a Civic Amenity (CA) site was found to be encroached upon by the local residents' association. Under the commissioner's supervision, the encroachment was cleared today.

Per day per capita protein intake 64.6 gm in 2023-24

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

classified as protein-rich foods, such as animal products like meat, fish, and egg, and plant foods like pulses, oilseeds and nuts. Milk, too, can be classified in this category.

"These food items contain over 20% protein, and soyabean is the richest source ,containing over 40% of protein. Cereals are a moderate source of protein as they contain about 10% protein. Rice contains less protein (7%) than wheat (approximately 10%) and other cereals. Leafy vegetables, fruits, roots, and tubers are generally poor sources of protein as they contain less than 2% protein," the report explained. While protein intake has dropped in both rural and urban areas, fat intake in rural areas has gone up in 2023-24 when compared with 2022-23.

Rural areas of Karnataka consumed 65.6 grams of fat per day per capita in 2023-24, in comparison to 65.1 grams of fat per day per capita in 2022-23. This puts rural Karnataka among the top five states in the country with the highest consumption of fat. The report prepared was based on surveys conducted from August 2022 to July 2023 and from August 2023 to July 2024.

Reliance on cereals drops

Karnataka also features among the bottom five states of their urban population deriving the lowest calories from cereals.

In 2023-24, while the rural population in Karnataka derived 42% of its calories from cereals, the urban population derived 37% of its calories from cereals, forming only 3.6% of total household expenditure in the cities in Karnataka. In rural Karnataka, cereals formed 4.8% of the total household expenditure.

The national average for cereal expenditure stood at 5% in rural areas and 3.8% in urban areas. The report also underlines that the contribution of cereals to calorie intake is seen to fall progressively in 2022-23 and also in 2023-24. It was 44.4% in 2022-23 in rural Karnataka and 38.2% in the cities.

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Crossing chaos

Basaveshwara Circle

At Basaveshwara Circle, pedestrians struggle to cross safely. The Traffic Police seem to expect them to "attempt a high jump" rather than walk with ease. A safe crossing is long overdue.

Pathway crisis

Bellandur

There is no footpath for commuters opposite RMZ Ecospace in Bellandur, forcing them onto busy roads and placing them at risk.

Dumping nuisances

Cox Town

Gaps in the wall on Charles Campbell Road Extension, Cox Town (towards Kalpalli Cemetery) are being misused as urinals and dumping spots. These gaps should be closed, ensure regular sweeping, and clear rubbish and debris to maintain hygiene and safe pedestrian movement.

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Thief creates high drama on Kempegowda Road

Bengaluru's Kempegowda Road witnessed high drama early Friday when a thief attempted to break into a house around 5 am by hurling a stone at the window. The woman inside raised an alarm, alerting her family and neighbors, who immediately contacted police helpline 112.

BM reader S Sivaprasad said, "Responding swiftly, Hoysala patrol units along with Upparpet police rushed to the spot. The accused, in an attempt to escape, climbed onto a nearby building and clung to a pipe, refusing to come down. Despite repeated efforts by police to persuade him, he resisted, forcing the team to call in the fire brigade. Fire personnel, along with police, made continuous attempts to bring him down safely and eventually managed to secure the situation."

Meanwhile, residents expressed concern that non-functional streetlights in the locality for the past two to three months have emboldened miscreants. They urged GBA's central zone authorities to restore proper lighting on Kempegowda Road and adjoining lanes to prevent such incidents in the future. **–BMB**

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Drug peddling shadow over khaki

11 police personnel suspended for alleged links with drug peddlers

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Eleven police personnel, including an inspector from Chamarajpet under the West Division of Bengaluru City Police, have been suspended after a preliminary inquiry revealed their alleged links with drug peddlers. They are accused of protecting the network in exchange for money and facilitating the sale of narcotics.

The suspended officials include Chamarajpet Inspector T Manjanna, Head Constables Ramesh and Shivraj, and Constables Madhusudan, Prasanna, Shankar Belagali, and Anand. From JJ Nagar police station, ASI Kumar, Head Constable Anand, and Constables Basavan Gowda and Mahesh Kumar have also

been suspended.

According to police, the revelations surfaced after the RR Nagar police arrested six drug peddlers on August 22 while they were selling restricted Tidal tablets to students and the public.

The police officials had arrested six individuals – Salman, Niyaz, Nawaz and Reshma in an operation in connection with the tablet peddling case. Police seized 4 lakh in cash and 1,000 tablets worth another 4 lakh from the accused. Investigation revealed that the arrested peddlers were in regular contact with police personnel from Chamarajpet and JJ Nagar stations.

A senior officer said the case was first reported to ACP Kengeri Gate Sub-Division, Bharath Reddy, who submitted his findings to DCP (West) S Girish. The matter was then handed over to ACP Chandan of Vijayanagar Sub-Division for a detailed probe.

Further investigation revealed that the peddlers were allegedly paying commissions of 1.5 to 2 lakh to police officials for protection. It was also alleged that some personnel partied with the peddlers. Following these findings, the police personnel were suspended on Thursday, while Inspector Manjanna was suspended on Friday. A departmental inquiry is currently underway.

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STATE GOVERNMENT EYES KEA'S ₹400 CR RESERVES

Bengaluru traffic fine rebate yields ₹100 cr

During the three-week 50% rebate scheme on traffic fines, Bengaluru traffic violators paid an average of ₹19 lakh every hour, yet total collections fell far short of the city's massive backlog. Against pending dues of nearly ₹1,200 crore, the city managed to recover only about ₹100 crore—barely 8% of the total owed.

The rebate window, open from August 23 to September 12, saw citizens rushing to clear challans through police stations, traffic management centers, apps, and websites. Across Karnataka, ₹96 crore was collected, and nearly 33 lakh cases were closed. On the final day, Bengaluru alone contributed ₹12.5 crore from 4.5 lakh cases. Officials noted that even heavy collections are "a drop in the ocean," raising questions whether repeated rebate schemes encourage compliance or habitual delays. **–BMB**

RTOs mandate full vehicle details update

The State Transport Department has made it mandatory for vehicle owners to provide complete details—including horsepower, cubic capacity, wheelbase, and purchase value—while applying for No Objection Certificates (NOC) or clearance certificates at RTOs. This directive follows the rollout of the new centralised, web-based Vahan software across Karnataka's RTOs, as instructed by the central government. Officials clarified that without updating these details in the system, NOC and clearance applications will not be processed. The initiative aims to standardise vehicle information, prevent fraudulent registrations, facilitate smooth inter-state transfers, and enhance monitoring by enforcement authorities nationwide, ensuring uniformity and transparency. **–BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

FLOATING SNACK SHOP

Our reader shares a vibrant image of a woman vending snacks and cool drinks from her coracle as she navigates the rushing waters at Hogenakkal Falls. Her floating shop is part of a unique tradition, where many such vendors earn their livelihood on these lively currents—capturing both the resilience of daily work and the charm of river bound enterprise.

The picture was clicked by reader
NJ Ravi Chander

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Kengeri TTMC crumbles, commuters battle daily chaos and neglect

Once a key transit hub, Kengeri TTMC now suffers collapsing infrastructure, unsafe design, and poor upkeep, leaving 10,000 commuters stranded daily

The Kengeri Traffic and Transit Management Centre (TTMC), named after Kengal Hanumanthaiah, has become a symbol of neglect and disorder, forcing thousands of commuters to struggle every day. Despite its strategic location on Mysuru Road and its role as a major gateway connecting Bengaluru with its outskirts, the facility is crumbling under poor infrastructure and mismanagement.

Every day, more than 10,000 commuters pass through Kengeri TTMC, making it one of the busiest transport hubs on the city's periphery. Yet the facility fails to provide even the most basic amenities. From the entrance, passengers face large potholes filled with stagnant water, which turn into a swamp-like mess during rains. The absence of regular maintenance has left the premises in deplorable condition. Toilets are unhygienic, poorly maintained,

and emit a stench that keeps many away. Although a skywalk has been constructed to ease pedestrian movement, it remains largely inadequate. The lift, designed to hold just four to five people, frequently malfunctions, forcing elderly commuters and women carrying luggage to climb stairs. "The lift is too small and often breaks down. Senior citizens and those with heavy bags suffer the most," said Anitha Gowda, a regular commuter.

The stairs, too, add to commuter woes. Barely three feet wide, they provide no separate pathways for people moving in opposite directions, creating congestion and risky bottlenecks during peak hours. "The lack of planning is evident everywhere—from pedestrian movement to bus parking," said commuter Bhavya Reddy. "For a station of such importance, the infrastructure remains woefully inadequate." Activists and local leaders have repeatedly flagged the condition of the facility. "The toilets are filthy, and the bus stand has become a hub of chaos. Passengers are suffering daily. Senior officials must intervene immediately," one activist demanded.

Despite the rapid development along Mysuru Road and the growing passenger traffic, Kengeri TTMC has remained frozen in time, its infrastructure outdated and poorly maintained. Commuters argue that the neglect is not just about inconvenience but also about safety and hygiene. Overcrowded staircases, malfunctioning lifts, and broken pathways increase the risk of accidents, particularly during rush hours.

As Kengeri continues to grow as a vital transit hub, the pressure on the TTMC will only intensify. Commuters and activists alike are calling for urgent intervention from higher authorities to upgrade facilities, ensure regular maintenance, and restore order. Until then, one of Bengaluru's busiest gateways will remain a daily nightmare for thousands.

Unsafe pedestrian access and unscientific design expose glaring flaws, with activists warning of urgent safety and hygiene concerns at the hub

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, as Russia marked Victory Day, Kremlin-backed hackers hijacked a satellite providing TV to Ukraine, replacing programs with Moscow's parade footage. The act highlighted how modern warfare now extends into cyberspace and outer space. Experts warn disabling satellites can cripple communication, navigation, and even early missile detection. More than 12,000 satellites orbit Earth, supporting GPS, intelligence, supply chains, and military operations—making them tempting targets. Hackers often exploit weak software or ground systems rather than the satellite itself. In 2022, Ukraine blamed Russia for crippling Viasat modems, disrupting networks across Europe. US officials recently revealed Russia is developing a nuclear, space-based anti-satellite weapon, potentially capable of disabling all low-Earth orbit satellites for a year—violating treaties and sparking fears of a "Cuban Missile Crisis in space." Competition is also heating up over lunar resources like helium-3, which could power nuclear fusion. The US, China, and Russia are racing to establish moon bases and deploy reactors. With energy demands surging, control of extraterrestrial resources could define global power. The US Space Force, created in 2019, calls space a warfighting domain, stressing the need to defend satellites and deter adversaries. — AP

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FACT FOCUS: Assassination of Charlie Kirk prompts flood of false and misleading claims online

A flood of false and misleading claims swept across social media in the two days it took law enforcement to arrest and publicly identify 22-year-old Tyler Robinson as the suspect in the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University. As often happens with breaking news, misinformation and conspiracy theories thrived before officials released verified details. Within hours of the shooting, social platforms filled with unverified assertions, false accusations, and misrepresented images. Some of the earliest rumours incorrectly named other individuals as the gunman. Over Thursday and Friday, more claims emerged, using old photos and videos as supposed evidence, while also circulating misleading reports about Robinson's political ties and background.

CLAIM: Robinson is a registered Republican.
THE FACTS: False. Records from Utah show Robinson was registered to vote but unaffiliated with either political party. His voter status was inactive, meaning he had not voted in two general elections after receiving a clerk's notice. Utah Governor Spencer Cox said Robinson's family noted his increasing political engagement, often criticizing Kirk. Robinson allegedly said Kirk was "full of hate and spreading hate." Ammunition recovered at the scene carried engravings of taunting anti-fascist phrases and meme references.

CLAIM: Robinson is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).
THE FACTS: False. Priscilla Yeverino, a DSA spokesperson, confirmed the group has no member named Tyler Robinson. Circulating images showed a man resembling Robinson in a Salt Lake City DSA shirt reading "bee the change," but Yeverino declined to confirm the identity for privacy. Despite the denial, many social media users, including Donald Trump, seized on the rumour to allege liberal involvement in Kirk's death.

CLAIM: A video of a man running toward a parking lot shows the shooter escaping.
THE FACTS: False. The video, filmed July 28, shows Dakota Hawver, the suspect in a Reno, Nevada mass shooting at the Grand Sierra Resort. Hawver killed three, injured three, and ran toward the lot before being shot by police. He later died in the hospital. Despite this context, the old clip was mis-captioned as Kirk's shooter fleeing.

CLAIM: Democrats opposed a moment of prayer for Kirk in the House.
THE FACTS: Misleading. On Wednesday, Speaker Mike Johnson requested and oversaw a silent prayer for Kirk and his family. Afterward, Rep. Lauren Boebert urged a spoken prayer, prompting objections and disorder. Johnson banged his gavel repeatedly and assured members prayer would continue. Clips circulated online often omitted the initial silent observance, falsely framing Democrats as opposed to prayer.

CLAIM: The shooter was identified as Michael Mallinson or George Zinn.
THE FACTS: False. Robinson was confirmed as the suspect Friday. In the meantime, others were misidentified. Michael Mallinson, a 77-year-old Toronto resident, learned he had been wrongly accused after panicked calls from his daughter. He said he had "never heard of Charlie Kirk." Another man, George Zinn, was briefly detained and filmed in handcuffs. Authorities later clarified Zinn was charged only with obstruction and had no ties to the assassination. — AP

State government eyes KEA's ₹400 cr reserves

Facing fund crunch, Karnataka seeks ₹50 crore from KEA reserves, raising concerns over misuse of autonomous exaexam body's funds for projects

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In a bid to ease the financial crunch affecting several of its development schemes, the Karnataka government has turned its attention to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), seeking to tap into the autonomous body's reserves.

Facing a fund shortage for ongoing infrastructure projects, the state government has reportedly written to KEA twice, requesting a sum of ₹50 crore. The move is part of efforts to identify alternative financial sources to support stalled or underfunded initiatives.

Although KEA functions as an independent authority and generates its own revenue by conducting entrance and competitive exams such as CET, the government is now looking to repurpose part of its funds. This is not the first time KEA's corpus has been tapped for unrelated projects.

Govt eyes KEA reserves to fund stalled medical college projects in Kalaburagi and Chamarajanagar

For instance, during the previous BJP regime, ₹10 crore was allocated from KEA's funds to develop the Unified University and College Management System (UUCM) software under the Department of Collegiate Education, despite KEA having no direct role in the initiative. Similarly, ₹13 crore was used for "Get CET Go," a program to help students prepare for the CET exam.

Recently, the government sought ₹25 crore each from KEA for constructing medical colleges in Kalaburagi and Chamarajanagar

Officials, however, are increasingly concerned that repeated government demands could compromise KEA's financial stability and undermine its autonomy.

Recently, the government sought ₹25 crore each from KEA for constructing medical colleges in Kalaburagi and Chamarajanagar. KEA has yet to respond to this request. A similar appeal was also made to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) for supporting the new government medical college in Bagalkot.

KEA does not receive salary grants from the government and independently manages its staff salaries and office maintenance, estimated at ₹50 to ₹70 lakh monthly. It is also investing heavily in expanding its office infrastructure, with new buildings under construction.

Given these financial commitments, sources say KEA is in no position to release ₹50 crore for external projects. The government's persistent attempts to access KEA's funds have stirred discontent within the authority, with many fearing an erosion of its financial independence.

Private education sector shows resilience in K'taka

Despite national fluctuations in private school numbers, K'taka shows stability, ranking among leading states with a matured ecosystem focused on quality and sustainability

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The private school landscape in Karnataka has remained largely stable over the past five years, even as the national trend showed signs of fluctuation. According to the latest UDISE+ data, Karnataka recorded 19,542 private schools in 2023–24 — only marginally lower than the 20,069 schools it had in 2019–20. This represents a net decline of just 2.6% over five years, indicating a resilient and consistent private education sector in the state.

In contrast, India witnessed sharper changes. The total number of private schools in the country stood at 3,31,108 in 2023–24, down from 3,37,499 in 2019–20. This drop of over 6,000 schools (around 1.9%) suggests a nationwide contraction, possibly driven by a mix of factors — including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic pressures, shifting enrolment patterns, and increasing compliance costs for private institutions.

Plateau effect in Karnataka

While states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh lead the country with massive numbers of private schools, Karnataka consistently ranks among the top ten states. Despite minor dips, the state has maintained a steady count — 19,915 in 2020–21, 19,650 in 2021–22, and 19,531 in 2022–23 — before slightly ticking upward to 19,542 in the most recent year.

Nationwide volatility contrasts Karnataka's stable private school count over the past five years

Unlike states such as Punjab and West Bengal, which saw sharp year-on-year declines (Punjab from 8,893 in 2020–21 to 7,704 in 2023–24, and West Bengal from 10,424 to 7,480 in the same period), Karnataka managed to avoid drastic closures or contractions. The state appears to have reached a saturation point in terms of the number of private institutions, focusing now on quality consolidation rather than unchecked expansion.

Karnataka's relatively high literacy rates and strong urban education infrastructure — especially in cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru — have supported private school stability. At the same time, rural areas are increasingly benefitting from government schemes, which might be influencing the rate of new private school registrations, balancing growth across both government and private sectors.

National variations

At the national level, states like Uttar Pradesh (from 93,750 to 96,635) and Bihar (from 7,630 to 9,167) added private schools, indicating continued demand in those regions. On the other hand, Maharashtra and West Bengal witnessed significant drops. Maharashtra saw a reduction from 19,654 in 2019–20 to 18,642 in 2023–24, while West Bengal reported a dramatic decline of nearly 3,000 schools during the same period — possibly due to regulatory changes, funding constraints, or increased preference for government schools in certain areas.

As policies evolve and education preferences shift, Karnataka remains well-positioned, balancing private school access with quality and sustainability

Swanky new ride— Malaika Arora has added a new luxury car to her collection. The car, which costs about Rs 3 crore, shows her love for luxury. She was seen getting her brand-new dark grey Range Rover, in Mumbai, on Saturday

ALL PRAISE

Tamannaah lauds Karan Johar for championing 'outsiders', having strong roles for women in his films

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has opened up about her experience of working with the prominent filmmaker who stumbles between love and wrath for the sake of nepotism, Karan Johar. The 35-year-old opined that the producer has never shied away from championing the significant outsiders of the industry, and lauded him for defying the stereotyping of women in his films.

"As a person, I think he's extremely warm and welcoming, and he champions people who are from the industry and those who aren't from the industry," she said about Johar in an exclusive News18 interview, who worked together for their project 'Do You Wanna Partner.' Furthermore, the 'Babli Bouncer' actress expressed that the 53-year-old always had a balanced film, where he gave equally perfect opportunities to the female actresses.

Highlighting that Kajol's character in 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' was a tomboy, she said, "I've recognised that he's also somebody who understands the importance of making films with a very strong female character," which made a significant impact on the masses. Moreover, Bhatia mentioned Alia Bhatt's 'Raazi' as well, stating that Johar channeled women to a nuanced character with complex and interesting traits. When she was offered the series co-starring Diana Penty, she wasn't perplexed. " He has always championed women for who they really are, and this show is just another example," she concluded.

amannah expressed that her favorite quality about the 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil' director is his ability to shine through self-deprecating humor. "My favourite quality of him is that he can laugh at himself. This is something not a lot of people from the industry have," she said. **—ETimes**

A message to parents and children

Son of Muthanna
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sriikanth Hunsur
- **ACTORS** Pranam Devaraj, Kushee Ravi, Rangayana Raghu, Suchendra Prasad, Girish Shivanna
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 135 minutes

Sriikanth Hunsur, known for his long-association with the small screen, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Son of Muthanna. And he has done a good enough job with the movie that aging parents and independent children can take a leaf out of. The dialogues are full of emotion and sentiments and aptly convey the much-needed message to society, especially for parents and children.

The movie begins with Shivu (Pranam Devaraj) sitting at a tea shop in Varanasi. Shivu is seen introspecting on his bond with Major Muthanna (retired) aka Captain (Rangayana Raghu). At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating the ties between Shivu and Major Muthanna. It also narrates how Shivu falls in love with Shakshi (Kushee Ravi), a doctor with an ambition of going abroad. And how Shakshi hates Shivu for mistaking her gregarious attitude as love and 'sending' her a message expressing his love. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Shivu and Sakshi and about the bond between Major Muthanna and Shivu.

The first half of the movie can be a bit of a drag, but it gains momentum in the post-intermission session and the climax is superb. The strength of the movie is its meaningful dialogues. Rangayana Raghu, as a father who leads a lonely life despite having two children, is at his best. His dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. He walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. Pranam Devaraj has tried his best but looks stoic in some of the scenes. Kushee Ravi has no scope to showcase her acting skills. Suchendra Prasad and Srinivas Prabhu provide good support. Girish Shivanna, as a provision store owner, is convincing. The comedy scenes could have been better to make audiences giggle for a while. Sudha Belawadi appears in a few scenes.

Music by Sachin Basrur is good. Cinematographer Skating Krishna has done an excellent job behind the camera.

The movie is worth a watch for families.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Quirks of the middle-class

Middle Class Ramayana
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Dhanush Gowda V
- **ACTORS** Vinu Gowda, Mokshita Pai, Yukta Pervi, S Narayan, Veena Sunder, Jagadeesh Kumar, Bala Rajwadi
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 134 minutes

Director Dhanush Gowda has selected a good script for this movie and its title is apt for the script. It is Gowda's second film as a director and he has succeeded in showcasing joys and struggles of middle class families, especially youths who want to become self-reliant and rich. The specialty of the movie is that it conveys a message to youths - it is not a crime for a person to have an ambition or dream to lead a luxurious life but it is not good to be overambitious or jealous of your neighbour or colleague. The movie also conveys that exit and re-entry cannot happen in married life at the drop of a hat.

The movie begins with Nandi Krishna (Vinu Gowda) lying on a beach and having a nightmare while a cab driver is impatiently waiting for him. At this juncture, the scene shifts to Nandi village near Chikkaballapur. The director introduces a flashback narrating how Bhagyamma (Veena Sunder), a widowed mother, finds it tough to find a suitable bride for her son Nandi Krishna who has an ambition of opening a gym in the city but has no money. Meanwhile, Soundarya's (Mokshita Pai) marriage proposal gets cancelled because of her dark skin. Nandi Krishna agrees to marry Soundarya with an intention to get money to open the gym.

Vinu Gowda has to hone his acting skills further. Mokshita Pai deserves appreciation for her role. Yukta Pervi, who plays a young and energetic Telugu-speaking girl, has acted well. Veteran director-cum-actor S Narayan, Veena Sunder provide good support. Some of the scenes, especially the temple scene, where people tease the hero for marrying a dark woman, fail to make a mark. Shobharaj, known for playing villainous roles, played a traffic police inspector. He tickles audiences' funny bones.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

SLEEPING STAR

Following the tremendous success of Mohit Suri's romantic entertainer "Saiyaara", Ahaan Panday has secured the title of one of the most promising newcomers in Bollywood.

From his acting skills to his chiselled physique, Ahaan has everyone mesmerized.

Adding to the craze with his latest social media post, he dropped two photographs on social media, flaunting his "Sleepy build". Ahaan was seen bare-chested in these pics, wearing nothing but a pair of denim.

Admiring his picture-perfect body, a netizen wrote in the comment section, "You are freshly built and steady for your future ...Ahaan ...we are again feeling sleepy in your dreams Krish Kapoor...don't wish to wake up now."

Another one penned, "Stop flexing like that, or I might start falling for those arms. hehe."

The third comment read, "Haha, someone's been putting in the work". In another update, as "Saiyaara" completed 50 days of release on September 5, leads Ahaan and Aneet Padda expressed their gratitude with a heartfelt note on social media, stating that the success of "Saiyaara" is a testament that if one believes in the power of magic and feels it, the world also feels it with you. **—IANS**

₹3 lakh goes missing from Darshan's house

A theft of ₹3 lakh has been reported from the residence of Vijayalakshmi Darshan at Prestige South Ridge Apartment, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari. The incident comes while actor Darshan, the homeowner, is serving a jail sentence.

According to the complaint filed by her manager Nagaraju, who has been working with the family for over 10 years, the incident came to light between September 4 and September 8. On September 4, around 8.30 am, Vijayalakshmi asked Nagaraju to retrieve money from a box kept in her bedroom wardrobe. Nagaraju took out the required cash from a handbag inside the box, handed it to her, and returned the remaining amount before she locked the house and left for Mysuru.

Later that day, Nagaraju handed over the house key to Vijayalakshmi's mother. In the evening, her son and three friends were present at the house before leaving for Mysuru around 6.10 pm. Nagaraju himself left for Mysuru the following day and returned to Bengaluru with Vijayalakshmi on September 7.

On September 8, around 6.30 pm, Vijayalakshmi discovered that the money kept in the box was missing. missing cash. Nagaraju filed a complaint on behalf of Vijayalakshmi. **–BMB**

BMTC driver attacked at Majestic

A BMTC driver sustained serious head injuries after being attacked by a tea stall worker with a metal flask on Friday at the Majestic station.

It is said the victim, identified as Moogappa, had gone with a colleague to a tea shop located at the bus stand. After drinking tea, he reportedly remarked that the tea was not good and suggested going elsewhere. This led to an argument with the tea stall worker, Gururaj, who hit him in a fit of anger.

Locals and BMTC staff immediately rushed the bleeding driver to a nearby hospital for treatment. The attack was caught on camera, and the video has since gone viral on social media. **–BMB**

Kodigehalli resident alleges police harassment

A Kodigehalli resident has accused a police inspector and staff of the Kodigehalli Police Station of harassment, extortion and conspiring with a neighbour to register a false case, according to a complaint submitted to senior city police officials.

Complainant Sanjay KN says after he bought a site, he began receiving threats from the neighbouring plot owner Chetana, who allegedly demanded the land at a reduced price and warned of false litigation. Sanjay says he filed a written complaint on April 25 to the DCP (North-East Division) and the Commissioner of Police, and received acknowledgements. **–BMB**

5 killed in 3 road accidents

Five people lost their lives to accidents on Friday night and Saturday. In the first incident, a speeding truck ran over multiple vehicles near Sumanahalli Junction in Kamakshipalya traffic police station limits on Saturday morning, killing a 45-year-old autorickshaw driver and his daughter. The deceased were identified as Yesu D and Mariya Jennifer (24), residents of Harohalli. A biker sustained serious injuries, while a couple and their minor child traveling in the car narrowly escaped.

In an accident on Friday morning, Mehboob (45), a fishmonger from Kodigehalli, was killed after a tractor rammed into his scooter near Kodigehalli Main Road in Mahadevapura traffic police station limits. Police said the tractor hit his scooter from behind, throwing him onto the road before running over him. Also on Friday, a 45-year-old pedestrian was killed after being run over by a speeding truck on Cottonpet Mill Road within Chamarajpet traffic police station limits. The victim, Anjana Devi, was walking along the narrow lane with a friend when the truck hit her from behind. **–BMB**

State to launch transgender, Devadasi surveys from tomorrow

For the first time, Karnataka will conduct a statewide baseline survey of transgender minorities and a re-survey of former Devadasi women across 15 districts from September 15, 2025, to be completed in 45 working days. The Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation is leading the initiative to collect accurate socio-economic data, enabling tailored rehabilitation through social, economic, and educational programs. The transgender survey will take place at taluk and district government hospitals, led by trained community members, while the Devadasi re-survey will be conducted at Taluk Child Development Project Offices with the support of rehabilitation staff. Dedicated applications—'KARMANI' for transgender data and 'Seva Sindhu' for Devadasi re-survey—have been developed, alongside a helpline (1800 599 2025) for assistance. District and state-level monitoring committees, including community representatives and NGOs, will oversee the process. Awareness will be driven through posters, hoardings, print, electronic, and social media to ensure maximum participation. **–BMB**

Karnataka delays ballot ordinance, seeks legal clarity

The Karnataka government has hit pause on its plan to reintroduce ballot papers in local body elections, opting first for a detailed legal review. The Advocate General has been tasked with examining central election rules, past court judgments, and the feasibility of amending existing laws to replace Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with ballots. Officials indicated that the draft ordinances, originally scheduled for cabinet approval on September 11, have been withheld pending legal clarity. The government is wary of potential challenges from the Governor or in court, which could cause setbacks and political embarrassment. The move comes after the cabinet's September 4 decision, seen as a politically motivated response to opposition criticism of EVMs. However, the administration now appears cautious, prioritizing a solid legal footing before moving ahead. The final report from the Advocate General will determine whether the ballot paper plan can proceed without legal roadblocks. **–BMB**

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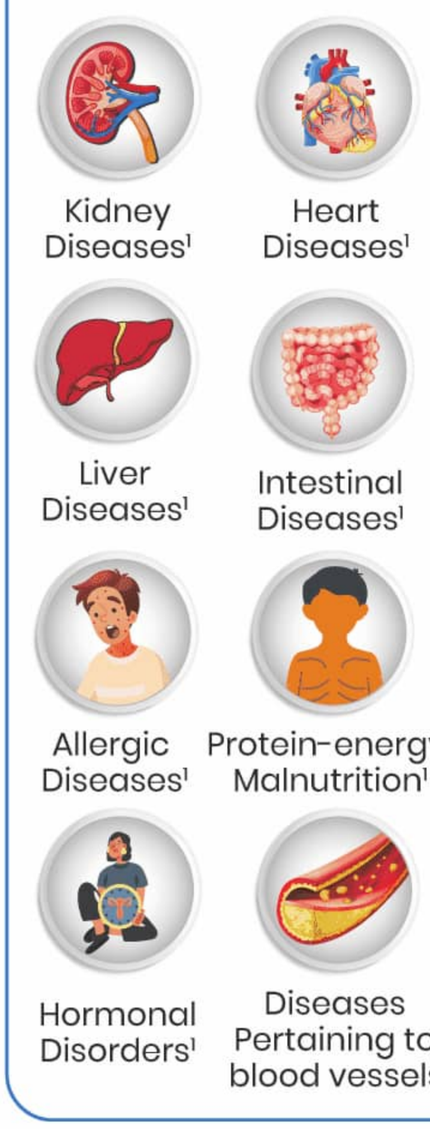

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HEALTH TIP: Post-meal "micro walks" help reduce sluggishness, help with digestion, and overall well-being

Raw papaya contains an enzyme called papain that stimulates estrogen production that can promote regular menstruation

What's up matcha?

Recipes to beat rainy day blues

MATCHA CLOUD COCONUT

Not feeling too fancy? Don't worry, we've got you covered on that as well. One of the simplest, lightest and quickest matcha recipes is that of a Matcha Coconut Cloud.

INGREDIENTS
- 2 g ceremonial grade matcha powder
- 200–230 ml chilled coconut water
- Ice cubes

METHOD
- Prepare the matcha. Sift the matcha powder into a small bowl to prevent clumps.
- Add the hot water and whisk vigorously with a bamboo whisk (chasen) or a regular whisk until the mixture is smooth and frothy.
- Build the drink. Fill a tall glass with ice cubes. Pour in the chilled coconut water.
- Combine and serve. Gently pour the whisked matcha over the coconut water.
- For a layered look, pour it slowly over the back of a spoon.
- Stir before drinking and enjoy immediately.

BLUEBERRY LEMON MATCHA FIZZ

A fizzy fix for your day. It's zesty lemon, sweet blueberry, and bold matcha. And yes, it works.

INGREDIENTS
- 15 g blueberries
- 30 ml simple syrup
- 60 ml lemon juice
- 120 ml soda water (or to top)
- 2 g powder whisked in 15 ml water

METHOD
- In a shaker, add blueberries and muddle lightly.
- Pour in the syrup and lemon juice. Swirl to mix.
- Add a handful of ice cubes and shake well until chilled.
- Strain into a glass filled with fresh ice.
- Top with soda water for a fizzy lift.
- Sprinkle matcha powder gently on top.
- Stir lightly before sipping

HOT MATCHA LATTE

Described as goodness in a cup, the hot matcha latte is all things yum. One of the most soothing monsoon day drinks, this one is an easy mood fixer.

INGREDIENTS
- 240 ml almond or cashew milk
- 2 g matcha powder
- 10 g honey (2 tsp)
- 1.25 ml vanilla extract (¼ tsp

o a few drops)
- Pinch of Celtic sea salt

METHOD
- Warm your milk till it's steamy (not boiling).
- Whisk matcha with a splash of hot water
- Stir in honey, vanilla, and that tiny pinch of salt.
- Combine with milk. Froth it if you're feeling fancy.

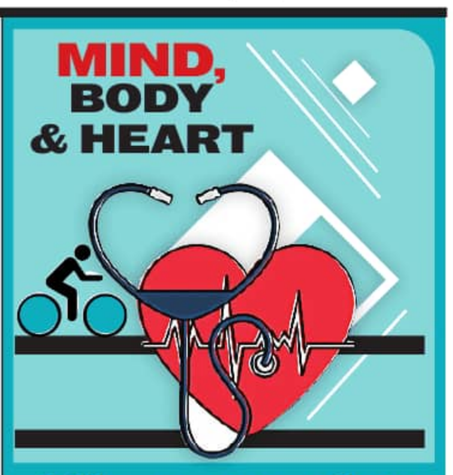
MATCHA HOT CHOCOLATE BOMBS

The best drink to pair with your comfort movie? A matcha hot chocolate. And you get the creamiest hot chocolate by adding these matcha hot chocolate bombs to your drink.

INGREDIENTS
- 340 g white chocolate (melted into creamy perfection)
- 2–4 g matcha (1–2 tsp)
- 240 ml milk (dairy or plant-based)
- Silicone chocolate bomb molds
- Optional: Crushed candy cane + marshmallows

METHOD
- Melt white chocolate until it's smooth and dreamy.
- Stir in matcha powder and make sure it's well combined.
- Spoon the chocolate mix into silicone molds, filling them halfway. Freeze to set.
- Fill the center with marshmallows (and crushed candy cane if you're extra).
- Close up the molds, freeze again. When ready to enjoy, drop the bomb in a cup of hot milk, watch it explode into matcha-chocolate magic, and stir!

Recipes by Bree Matcha, written by Kayal Arivalan, Femina



All you need to know about...

Artificial sweeteners

Can cause cognitive decline
Long-term use of artificial sweeteners or low- and no-calorie sweeteners, used mainly by people with diabetes, can lead to cognitive decline, claimed a study.

Which are these?
Researchers from the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, analysed 12,000 patients who use common artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, saccharin, xylitol, erythritol, sorbitol, tagatose, and acesulfame K.

Higher amounts, worse effect
The results, published in the Neurology journal, found that people who consumed the highest amounts had the greatest declines – 62 per cent -- in thinking and memory, as compared to those who consumed less. The declines amounted to 1.6 years of additional brain ageing. "We know sugar and sugar substitutes raise the risk of diabetes and malignancies. They are also linked to brain vascular cell dysfunction," Dr. Manjari Tripathi, head of the neurology department at AIIMS, told IANS. She advised restricting its use.
The study revealed that the people who used the artificial sweeteners moderately had a 35 per cent faster rate of memory and thinking decline, and a 110 per cent faster rate of verbal fluency decline.
For those in the high consumption group, the rate of memory and thinking decline was 62 per cent faster, and their verbal fluency decline was 173 per cent faster.

Diabetes problem
Doctors say the effect seen most commonly among diabetics, is a matter of concern as the incidence of diabetes is increasing. They say that chronic exposure to these sugar alternatives may be making the brain more vulnerable.

—IANS

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I, Naveen H S/o Harish M R/o #55, Lakshminarasimha Nilaya 3rd Cross, Vinayaka layout Oasanapura B'lore-562123 have changed my name to Naveen Kumar H

I, Anwar R/o #2937, 4th D Cross, Shadab Nagar Kavalbyrasandra Pulakeshinagar B'lore-560032 have changed my name to Abdul Raheem

I, MURAGHENDRA TANVASHI residing at 53, 4th Main, Postal Colony, Sanjay nagar - 560094. I have changed my name to MURAGHENDRA GANGADHAR TANVASHI. Vide affidavit dated 02/09/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, TWISHAA J P, D/o Jaya prakash N M, R/at Flat No.1, D S Max Senorita Apartment, Gidadakonenahalli, Middina palya, Bangalore North, Banga lore-560091, here by declare that TWISHAA J P and TWISHAA JAYAPRAKASH, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt:13.09.2025 Notary Devaraja E, B.lore Henceforth I Shall be called in future TWISHAA J P only.

I, SAVITA residing at 53, 4th Main, Postal Colony, Sanjay nagar - 560094. I have changed my name to MADHURI MURAGHENDRA TANVASHI. Vide affidavit dated 02/09/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, AKSHITHA residing at # 50, Papanna Galli, K R Shetty Pet, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560002. I have changed my name to AKSHITHA M . Vide affidavit dated 12/09/2025 sworn before notary. H Sridhar Rao Bengaluru

I, Manjunatha Muniyappa, s/o Muniyappa, R/o No-1/9, 1st Main, 2nd Cross Motappa Layout, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048 have changed my name to Manjunath Muniyappa for all purposes.

I, DAIMAND GUSLU SABINA BI residing at # No.21, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Yallamma Temple Road, Bileshwale Village, Bangalore-560077. I have changed my name to ZAINABUNNISA. Vide affidavit dated 12/09/2025 sworn before notary. C Sharada Bengaluru

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THE SUNDAY READ

Local residents clean up the rubble of a burnt supermarket after it was set ablaze during protests in Kathmandu on Saturday

Surrounded by storms

Why India's neighbours are in turmoil and what it means for Delhi

For five years now, India's neighbourhood has resembled a ring of fire. Myanmar's military coup, Afghanistan's Taliban resurgence, Sri Lanka's economic collapse, Pakistan's political chaos, Bangladesh's student uprising, Maldives' shifting allegiances, and now Nepal's sudden meltdown — each crisis carries consequences for India. On the surface, these are domestic upheavals. But collectively, they redraw South Asia's political map and directly test New Delhi's ability to act as the region's stabilizer.

Nepal: Fragile Himalayan neighbour

The crisis: Nepal, once a monarchy and now a shaky democracy, has plunged into turmoil. Social media bans triggered street anger, but deeper discontent with Prime Minister Oli's government had been simmering. Protests snowballed into the collapse of the government.

What does it mean for India?

Nepal is not just another neighbour — it is India's buffer against China. Political instability here often translates into Beijing tightening its grip through aid, infrastructure projects, and political patronage. For India, a weak Nepal risks becoming a gateway for Chinese influence right at its northern doorstep.

Sri Lanka: From paradise to protests

The crisis: In 2022, Sri Lanka's worst-ever economic collapse drove citizens into the streets, burning government buildings and forcing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee overnight. For weeks, Colombo resembled a battlefield between people and the state.

What does it means for India?

Refugees once again poured into Tamil Nadu, reviving a humanitarian challenge. India's investments in Sri Lankan oil storage and infrastructure suddenly looked vulnerable. More importantly, Colombo's desperation opened doors for Chinese financial lifelines, creating another debt trap on India's southern flank. Stability in Sri Lanka isn't just Colombo's problem; it's directly linked to India's maritime security in the Indian Ocean.

Afghanistan: The Taliban redux

The crisis: The US exit in 2021 handed Afghanistan back to the Taliban. Airports fell, democracy collapsed, and extremism returned overnight.

What does it means for India?

Delhi had poured billions into Afghan infrastructure, from dams to parliament buildings, all now stranded. Afghan students in India face uncertain futures, while the Taliban's return also revives fears of Afghanistan once again becoming a hub for terror groups with eyes on Kashmir. For India, the Taliban's grip is both a diplomatic and a security setback.

Pakistan: Perpetual powder keg

The crisis: Since Imran Khan's ouster in 2022, Pakistan has been trapped in a cycle of protests, militancy, and separatism. The Baloch Liberation Army openly declared a parallel government, while Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan intensified its attacks. The state looks weaker than ever.

What does it mean for India?

An unstable Pakistan is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it keeps the military distracted internally. On the other, it risks desperate escalations across the border. A fragile Islamabad under pressure from its army is more likely to sponsor cross-border terror, not less. India must remain vigilant — instability in Pakistan rarely stays within Pakistan.

Bangladesh: When students toppled a government
The crisis: In 2024, a reservation policy for Liberation War families triggered a wave of student protests that toppled Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Violence then turned communal, targeting Hindu minorities, leaving over 850 dead.

What does it means for India?

Bangladesh is India's most critical eastern neighbour for trade, transit, and security. Instability threatens border management, bilateral trade, and puts pressure on India to speak up against attacks on minorities. It also creates space for radical groups who may destabilize the region further. For Delhi, a fragile Bangladesh is not just about sympathy — it's about safeguarding the Northeast's strategic lifelines.

On the surface, these crises look like domestic upheavals. But together, they redraw South Asia's political map and test New Delhi's ability to act as the region's stabiliser

Regional Picture: Ring of fire around India

According to experts, each crisis might appear local. "Collectively, they form a troubling arc: democracy retreating, militaries resurging, extremists gaining ground, and China fishing in troubled waters. For India, the stakes couldn't be higher. Refugee inflows, communal spillovers, economic shocks, and terror threats are all immediate consequences. But the long game is about influence: whether India can still anchor South Asia as a stabilizer, or whether instability allows external powers like China to rewrite the region's balance of power", said a political analyst.

Big Question for India

Analysts said that India wants to project itself as the voice of the Global South and an emerging great power. Yet, if its own neighbourhood burns, that credibility is undercut. New Delhi is being tested not in New York or Brussels, but in Colombo, Dhaka, Kabul, and Kathmandu. How India manages humanitarian responsibility, strategic aid, and hard security across its borders will decide whether it emerges as South Asia's true stabilizer — or watches the storm close in from all sides.

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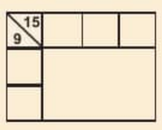
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

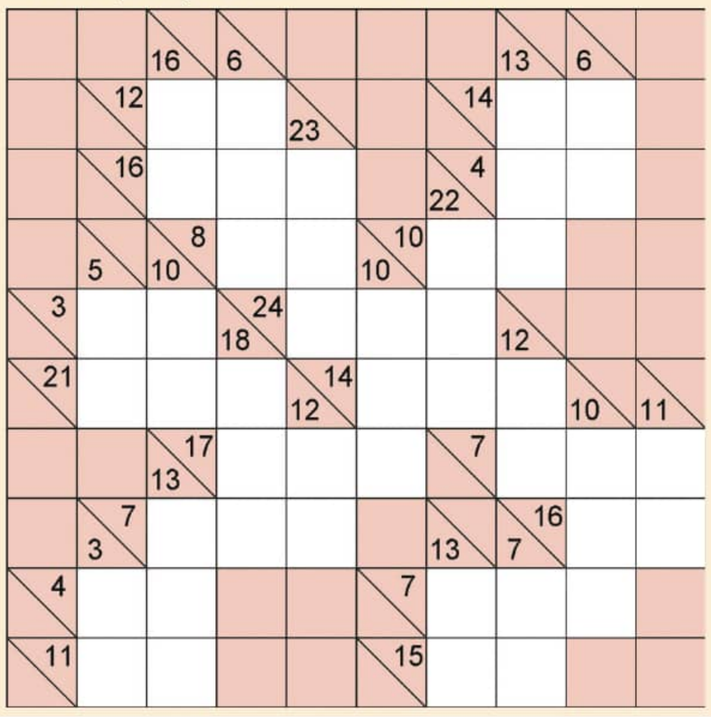
5 + (5^2^0) x 5^-1 = ?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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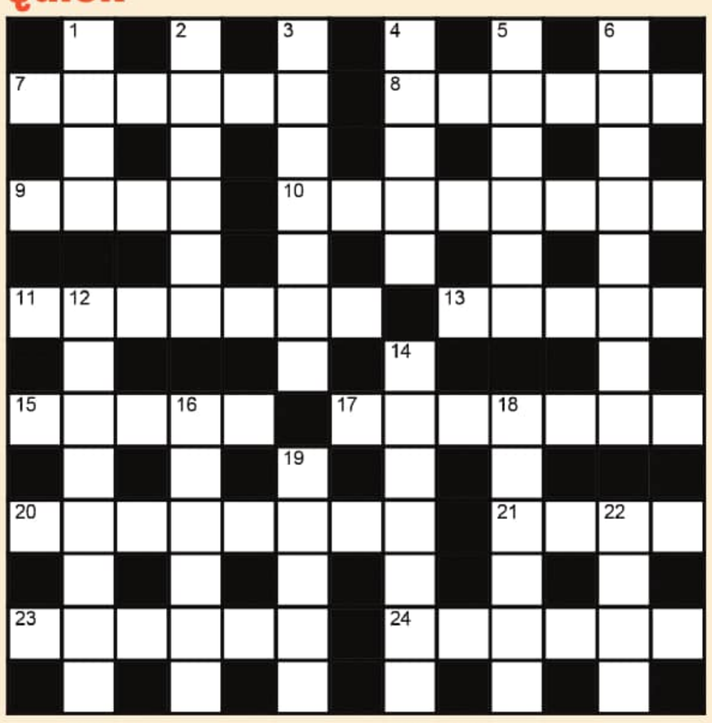


ACROSS

7 Russian greyhound (6)
8 Immense star system (6)
9 Churl (4)
10 Supplements to a will (8)
11 Invoked God's favour on (7)
13 Moving (5)
15 ___ all: deuce in tennis (5)
17 To depart in haste (7)
20 Extinct elephants (8)
21 Urban area (4)
23 Abut or border on (6)
24 Period of immaturity (6)

DOWN

1 Africa pop group (4)
2 Portuguese island group in the Atlantic (6)
3 ____ dwelling : a tent? (7)
4 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
5 ___ out : obliterates or obscures? (6)
6 Interjects (8)
12 Italian artist ____ da Vinci (8)
14 Increasing (7)
16 Native African drum (3-3)
18 Pleasure trip (6)
19 14 pounds weight (5)
22 Payment for work done (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS O

FJ LMMQTVEE, TM MTV LWBVE U LWDR RM EUTRU PSUIE!

Linemaro

I now believe in angels. Do you believe in fate?

Mindchow

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud

Joke of the day

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow

Loop

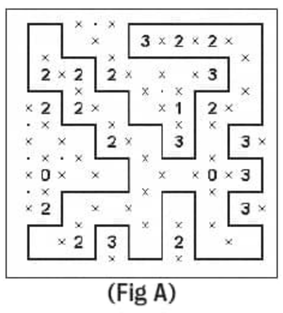
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

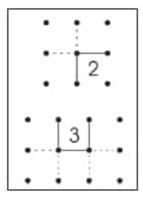
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

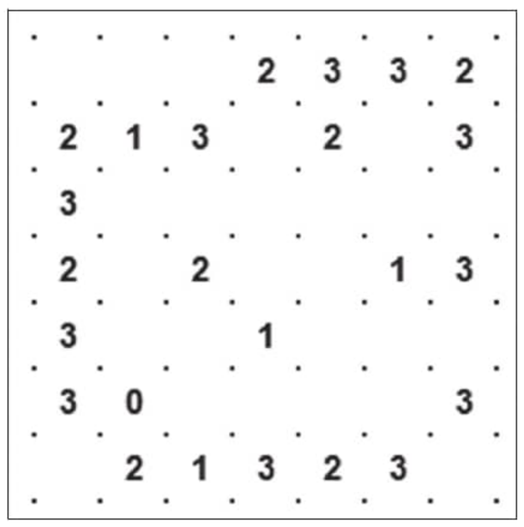
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



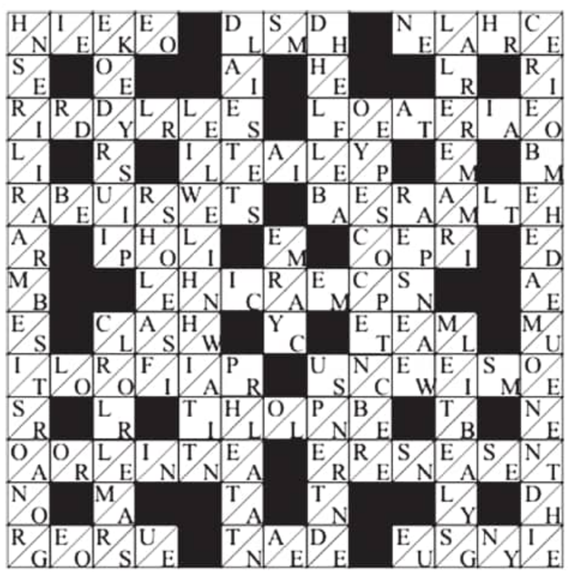
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



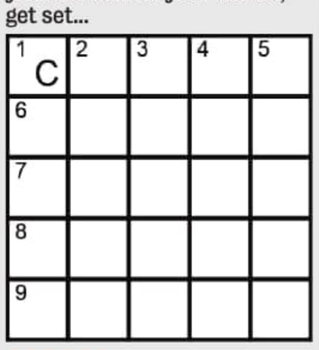
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

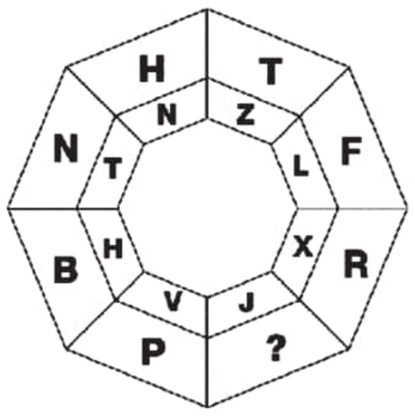
1 Scold; 6 Hi our; 7 Dante; 8 Large; 9 REM do

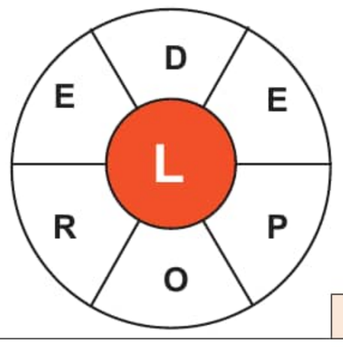
DOWN

1 Had Cr; 2 Enrol; 3 Go out; 4 Derma; 5 Isled

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

17 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			6	5			9	2
9	3				2			
		5			9		7	
		3	7	4				6
		2				7		
4				2	6	5		
	9		3			4		
			9				5	1
5	8			1	4			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

2 3 5 9

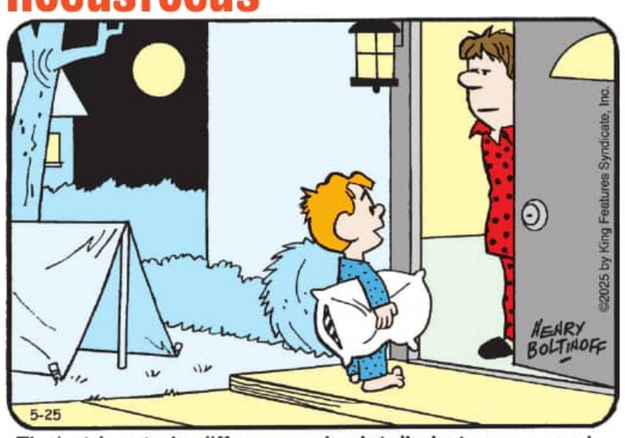
Medium = 11

2 3 5 5

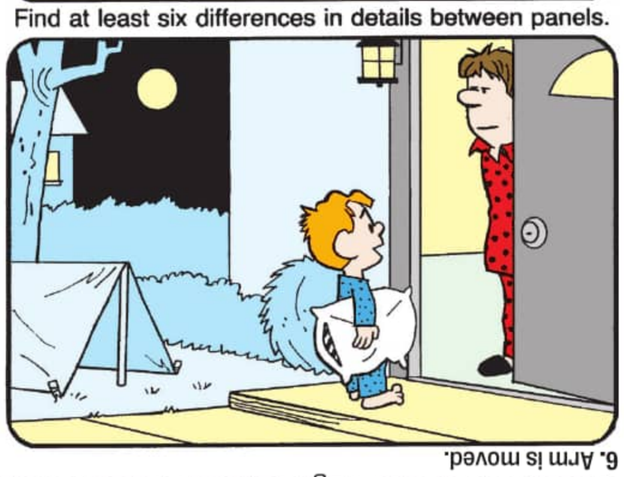
Hard = 1

2 4 6 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is smaller. 2. Tent is smaller. 3. House is not as wide. 4. Light is smaller. 5. Moon is smaller. 6. Arm is moved.

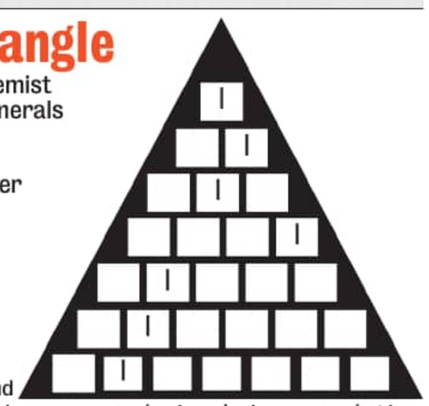
Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same. There may sometimes be one or two connecting words. Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?

1) bed item and grape beverage & a tree and a tree
2) fondle feathers & Amsterdam

Alpha triangle

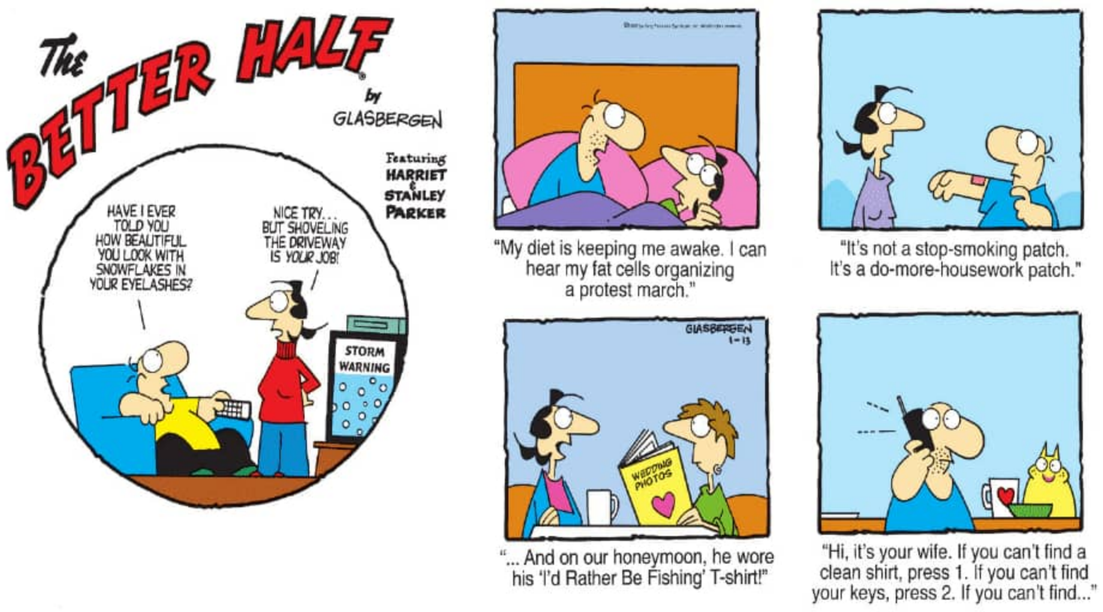
1 Iodine for the chemist
2 501 in Roman numerals
3 Cap, limit
4 Sandwich shop
5 Squiggle character
6 Drooped
7 Most savage

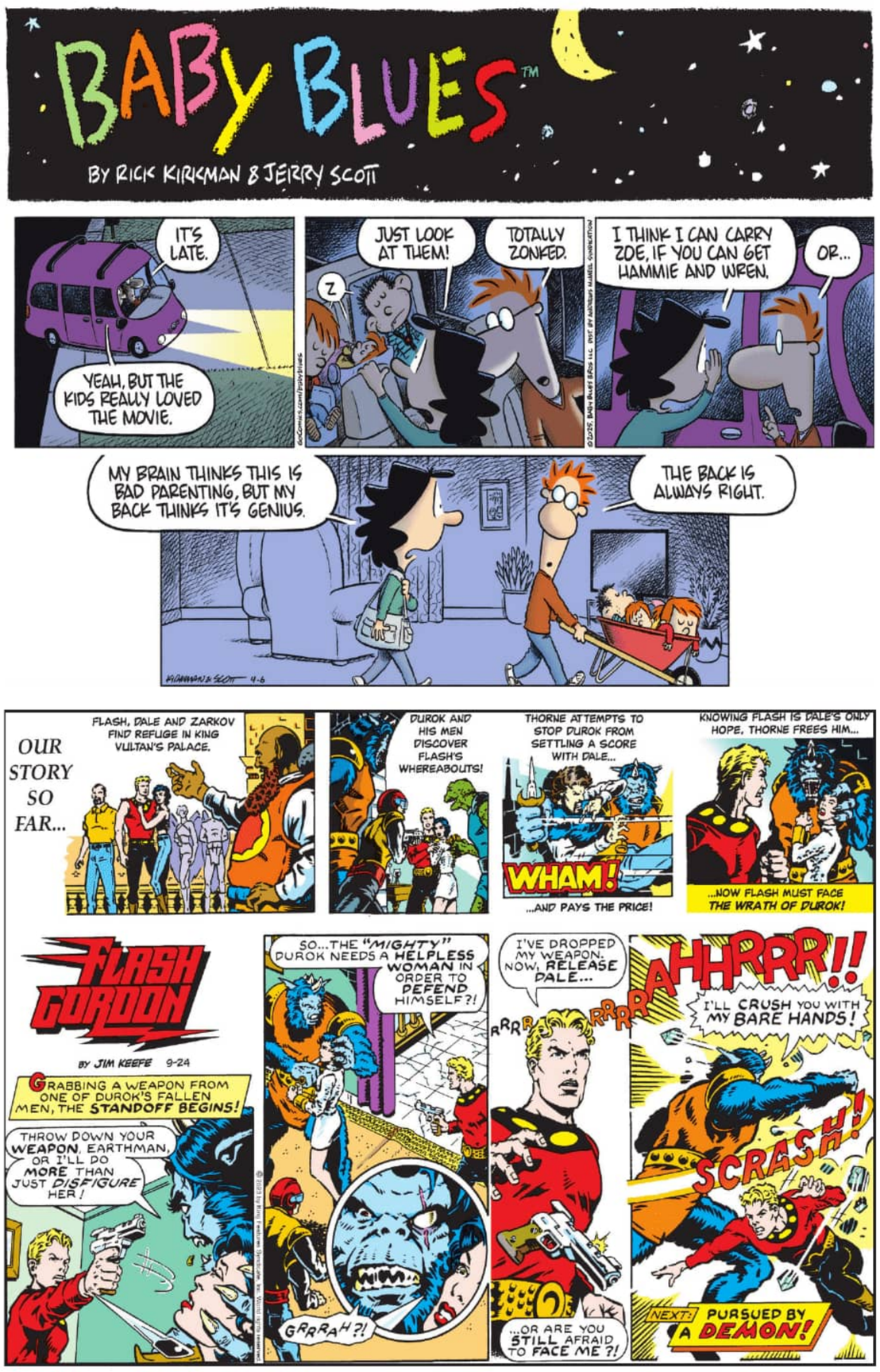


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

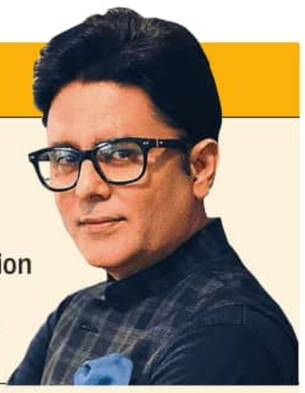
COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK WITH SNOWFLAKES IN YOUR EYELASHES?
NICE TRY... BUT SHOVELING THE DRIVEWAY IS YOUR JOB!
STORM WARNING
"My diet is keeping me awake. I can hear my fat cells organizing a protest march."
"It's not a stop-smoking patch. It's a do-more-housework patch."
GLASBERGEN
WEDDING PHOTOS
"... And on our honeymoon, he wore his 'I'd Rather Be Fishing' T-shirt!"
"Hi, it's your wife. If you can't find a clean shirt, press 1. If you can't find your keys, press 2. If you can't find..."


BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
IT'S LATE.
YEAH, BUT THE KIDS REALLY LOVED THE MOVIE.
JUST LOOK AT THEM!
TOTALLY ZONKED.
I THINK I CAN CARRY ZOE, IF YOU CAN GET HAMMIE AND WREN.
OR...
MY BRAIN THINKS THIS IS BAD PARENTING, BUT MY BACK THINKS IT'S GENIUS.
THE BACK IS ALWAYS RIGHT.
OUR STORY SO FAR...
FLASH, DALE AND ZARKOV FIND REFUGE IN KING VULTAN'S PALACE.
DUROK AND HIS MEN DISCOVER FLASH'S WHEREABOUTS!
THORNE ATTEMPTS TO STOP DUROK FROM SETTLING A SCORE WITH DALE...
WHAM!
...AND PAYS THE PRICE!
KNOWING FLASH IS DALE'S ONLY HOPE, THORNE FREES HIM...
...NOW FLASH MUST FACE THE WRATH OF DUROK!
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 9-24
GRABBING A WEAPON FROM ONE OF DUROK'S FALLEN MEN, THE STANDOFF BEGINS!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPON, EARTHMAN, OR I'LL DO MORE THAN JUST DISFIGURE HER!
SO...THE "MIGHTY" DUROK NEEDS A HELPLESS WOMAN IN ORDER TO DEFEND HIMSELF?!
GRRRAH?!
I'VE DROPPED MY WEAPON. NOW, RELEASE DALE...
...OR ARE YOU STILL AFRAID TO FACE ME?!
RRRR
RRRRRRRR
AHHRRR!!
I'LL CRUSH YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!
SCRASH!
NEXT: PURSUED BY A DEMON!

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

This year opens doors to exciting opportunities. Finances expand with disciplined habits and strategic moves. Career advancements reward your hard work and adaptability. Love grows richer through heartfelt communication and shared goals. Luck favors bold pursuits. Tip: Make time for reflection, understanding your deeper motivations will align your actions with long-term purpose and authentic success.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Patience is key today. Plans may stall, but don't lose hope. Use this pause to refine strategies, ensuring success when opportunities arrive. Trust the process, it's guiding you toward your goals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Home brings comfort. Spend time with loved ones or invest in improving your space. These simple acts provide emotional grounding, helping you regain balance and renewed energy for the week ahead.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Communication flows effortlessly. Express yourself through writing, speaking, or art, your words hold power today. Sharing your ideas strengthens relationships and opens doors for collaboration, inspiring personal and creative growth.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your nurturing side shines. Support friends or family who need encouragement. These heartfelt connections bring you joy, reminding you of the beauty and fulfillment found in helping others feel loved and valued.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Step into the spotlight. Your talents deserve recognition, share them confidently. This is a day for bold self-expression, inspiring admiration and opening exciting opportunities in your career and creative pursuits.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Simplify your schedule to ease stress. Focus only on what truly matters. Prioritizing effectively restores your energy and brings clarity, allowing you to approach challenges with calmness and thoughtful solutions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Romance is highlighted, express appreciation to someone you love. Acts of kindness strengthen bonds, deepening emotional connections and creating harmony in your relationships. Love flows freely when shared intentionally and sincerely.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your intuition uncovers hidden truths. Pay attention to subtle cues in conversations or situations, they reveal important insights. Use this awareness to make empowered decisions and navigate challenges with clarity and wisdom.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Seek knowledge, attend a workshop, read, or learn from someone inspiring. Expanding your skills brings motivation and opens new pathways. This curiosity-driven growth propels you toward exciting opportunities for future success.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Financial matters improve. Your dedication to careful planning pays off, bringing stability and confidence. Continue building on these strong foundations while exploring new strategies to ensure lasting security and steady growth.

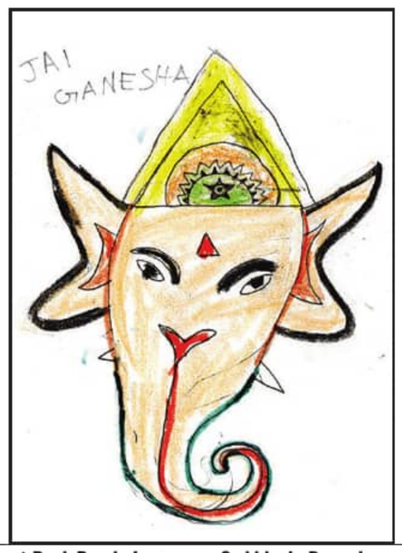
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A creative spark ignites, channel it into meaningful projects. Your innovative ideas attract admiration and support, leading to collaborations that bring your visions to life with ease and impactful results.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Quiet reflection restores peace. Spend time in nature or meditate to clear your mind. This stillness deepens self-awareness and prepares you for opportunities requiring emotional balance and thoughtful decision-making.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Rhyda, Bangalore Mirror



Akhilesh
Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE
My goodness, no one gives a gift to Santa Claus!

RIDDLER
1) pillow and wine & willow and pine &
2) touch down & Dutch town

STRIKE OUT

G	O	R	E		T	A	D		E	S	N	E
O		A		T		N		L		H
O	L	I	T	E		E	R	N	E	S	T
R		L		I	H	O	P	E		B		N
T	O	O	F	A	R		U	N	W	I	S	E
S		C	A	W		Y		E	E	L		M
M		E	N	C	A	M	P	S				E
	R		P	H	I		M		O	E	R	D
A	B	U	S	E	S		A	E	R	A	T	E
L		S		I	T	A	L	Y		E		M
I	D	Y	L	L	S		L	E	A	R	I	E
E		E		I		E		R		R		
N	I	K	E		L	S	D		N	A	R	C
	T		A		P		U		B		E	
B	O	R	O	Z	O	I		G	A	L	A	X	Y
	T		O		T		A		A		C	
B	O	O	R		C	O	D	I	C	I	L	S
	E				H		I		K		A	
B	L	E	S	S	E	D		A	S	T	I	R
	E				D		R				M	
F	O	R	T	Y		V	A	M	O	O	S	E
	N		O		S		I		U			
M	A	M	M	O	T	H	S		T	O	W	N
	R		T		O		I		O		I	
A	D	J	O	I	N		N	O	N	A	G	E
	A				N		O		N		L	
G	O	R	E		T	A	D		E	S	N	E

FAST FIVE

C	L	O	U	D	S
H	O	U	R	I	
A	N	T	E	D	
R	E	G	A	L	
A	R	O	M	E	
D					

BULL'S EYE
DEPLORE, dole, elder, elope, eloped, leer, leper, lode, lope, loped, lord, lore, older, peel, pled, plod, pole, poled, reel, repel, role

QUICK
5 + 5 × 1/5
= 5+1 = 6

SOLVE IN 1M
Letters advance through the alphabet 6 letters at a time.

MENSA PUZZLE
D. Start with the H in the top left segment, and move clockwise around the shape, alternating between outer segment then inner segment.

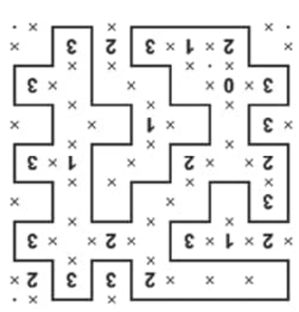
SUDOKU

5	8	7	2	1	4	6	3	9
3	4	6	9	8	7	2	5	1
2	9	1	3	6	5	4	8	7
4	7	9	8	2	6	5	1	3
1	6	2	5	9	3	7	4	8
8	5	3	7	4	1	9	2	6
6	2	5	1	3	9	8	7	4
9	3	8	4	7	2	1	6	5
7	1	4	6	5	8	3	9	2

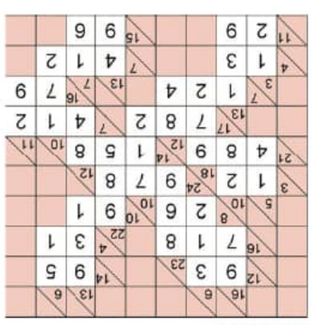
ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, DI, LID, Dell, Tilde, Witted, Wildest.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 3 + 5 - 2 = 9
Medium
5 + 3 + 5 - 2 = 11
Hard
2 × 6 - 4 / 8 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO



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